

# The Christmas Carol

Part Four: *a changed life!* December 24, 2022

In Charles Dickens masterpiece A Christmas Carol, a greedy old miser named Ebenezer Scrooge is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of his former business partner. Jacob Marley's spirit has been wandering the earth for seven years laden with heavy chains and money boxes which he forged during his lifetime of greed. Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three spirits, and he must listen to these spirits, or he will be cursed to carry much heavier chains of his own.

## ***Each ghost in A Christmas Carol has a specific mission to accomplish:***

- The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge that his wrong choices have caused him to suffer great losses.
- The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge that his wrong view of Christmas is keeping him from celebrating Christ's birth.
- The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come shows Scrooge that he must change if he wants to change the future.

***In the final stave of A Christmas Carol...*** Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning thankful he is alive. On his knees, Scrooge vows to change his life, and he does. First, he anonymously sends a turkey to the Cratchit home. Next, Scrooge makes a large donation to the charity he rejected the previous day. Then, the new man goes to his nephew Fred's house for Christmas dinner. Then, the day after Christmas, Scrooge increases Bob Cratchit pay, and vows to help his family.

## ***Two truths you must understand about Scrooge:***

1. Scrooge changed his life so he could change lives.

Scrooge didn't change his life to avoid death. Scrooge changed his life because he wanted to do more with his life. He wanted to stop taking from others and start giving to others. He wanted to stop hurting people and start helping people. He wanted to stop getting rich and start developing rich relationships with God and the people around him.

2. Christ had to change Scrooge's heart before the greedy old miser could change his life.

Dickens makes a point at the beginning of his last stave to show Scrooge praising Heaven (God) and Christmas time (Christ) for his change of heart. He did this because he wanted us to know that the greedy old miser changed on the inside before he changed on the outside.

- The change that occurred in Scrooge's life is supposed to show you what happens when a person is born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:1-7).

## ***What do you need to do to be spiritually born again?***

- You must believe in Jesus for salvation (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:15-17).

## ***What is the life lesson you need to take home today?***

- You must allow Christ to change your life before you can change lives!